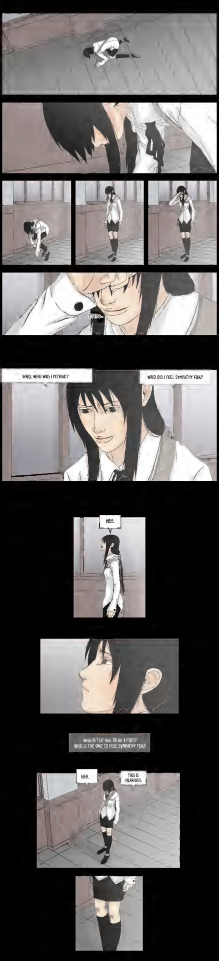

Haha...
WHO, WHO WAS I PITYING?
WHO DID I FEEL SYMPATHY FOR?
HEH.
WHO IS THE ONE TO BE PITIED?
WHO IS THE ONE TO FEEL SYMPATHY FOR?
HEH..
THIS IS HILARIOUS.
HILARIOUS.

ART

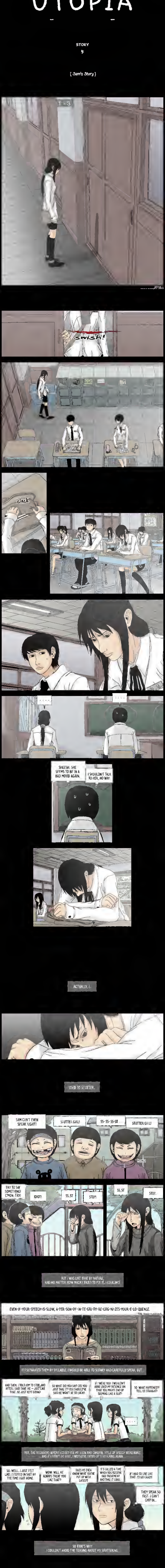
NEUK DAE SAM 늑대삼 + 황상준 HWANG SANG JUN

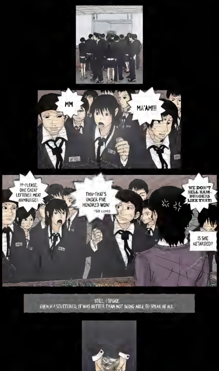
UTOPIA

STORY

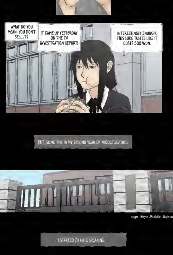
5

[Sam's Story]


1-3
swish!
clack
. . . .
SHEESH. SHE SEEMS TO BE IN A BAD MOOD AGAIN.
I SHOULDN'T TALK TO HER, NO WAY
ACTUALLY, I..
USED TO STUTTER.
SAM CAN'T EVEN SPEAK RIGHT!
STUTTER GIRL!
SS- SS- SS-ST ..
STUTTER GIRL!
TRY TO SAY SOMETHING! C'MON, TRY!
IDIOT!
SS..ST
STOP!
SS..ST
STOP..
BUT, I WAS LIKE THAT BY NATURE, AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRIED TO FIX IT, I COULDN'T.
EVEN-IF-YOUR-SPEECH-IS-SLOW, A-PER-SON-OF-IN-TE-GRI-TY-RE-COG-NI-ZES-YOUR-E-LO-QUENCE.
T/N: Korean proverb
IF I SEPARATED THEM BY SYLLABLE, I WOULD BE ABLE TO SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY SPEAK, BUT...
AND THEN, I TOLD HIM TO STOP, AND AFTER I SAID THAT, HE ~ JUST LIKE THAT.. HE JUST KEPT GOING!
SO WHAT DID YOU SAY? DID YOU JUST TAKE IT? YOU SHOULD'VE SAID HE WON'T BE SO LUCKY
IF I WERE YOU, I WOULDN'T HAVE USED MY PATIENCE ON THAT. YOU MIGHT END UP SEEMING LIKE A SLUT!
SO, WHAT HAPPENED?! TELL US STRAIGHT!
. . . .
BUT, THE OCCASIONS WHERE I COULD USE MY SLOW AND CAREFUL STYLE OF SPEECH WERE RARE. AND IF I DIDN'T DO THAT, I WOULD'VE ENDED UP STUTTERING AGAIN.
SO.. WELL.. I JUST FELT LIKE I STEPPED IN SHIT BY THE TIME I GOT HOME.
WOW. WILL HE ALWAYS TREAT YOU LIKE THAT?
DOES HE EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'VE PUT UP WITH LATELY?
IT'S CALLED A TIME WHEN YOU RECEIVE BAD TREATMENT AND TAKE IT COOL
IF I HAD TO LIVE LIKE THAT, I'D GO CRAZY!
THEY SPEAK SO FAST. I CAN'T CHIP IN...
SO THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T AVOID THE TEASING ABOUT MY STUTTERING.


MM
MA'AM!!!
PP-PLEASE, ONE CHEAP LEFTOVER MEAT HAMBURGER
THH-THAT'S UNDER FIVE HUNDRED WON!
*50 cents
WE DON'T SELL HAM-BURGERS LIKE THAT!
IS SHE RETARDED?

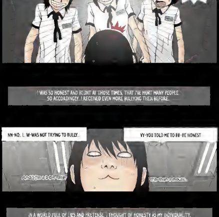
STILL, I SPOKE.
EVEN IF I STUTTERED, IT WAS BETTER THAN NOT BEING ABLE TO SPEAK AT ALL.


WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T SELL IT?
IT CAME UP YESTERDAY ON THE TV INVESTIGATION REPORT!
nom
INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, THIS SURE TASTES LIKE IT COSTS 500 WON.

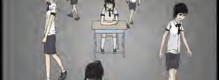
BUT, SOMETIME IN MY SECOND YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL,

sign: Biyn Middle School

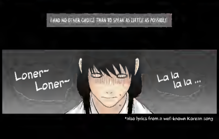
I STARTED TO HATE SPEAKING


WW-WELL, YOU, HONESTLY..
EVEN WITHOUT PIMPLES AND WITH ALL THE WEIGHT YOU LOST YOUR FACE STILL ISN'T THAT PRETTY
HOW DARE YOU TALK LIKE THAT TO YOUR FRIENDS?
I SHOULD BE SAYING STUFF LIKE THAT TO YOU, STUTTER GIRL!
WHO'S TEASING WHO NOW?!
YOU'RE NOT THAT PRETTY EITHER!
YOU'RE AS SHORT AS A SHIT MOUSE SO WHO ARE YOU TO TALK ABOUT LOOKS?!

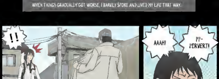
I WAS SO HONEST AND BLUNT AT THOSE TIMES, THAT I'VE HURT MANY PEOPLE.
SO ACCORDINGLY, I RECEIVED EVEN MORE BULLYING THEN BEFORE.


NN-NO.. I.. W-WAS NOT TRYING TO BULLY..
VV-YOU TOLD ME TO BB-BE HONEST
And I-I'm a b-bit taller
th-than a mouse..

IN A WORLD FULL OF LIES AND PRETENSE, I THOUGHT OF HONESTY AS MY INDIVIDUALITY,
BUT IT SEEMED THAT OTHER PEOPLE DIDN'T AGREE.

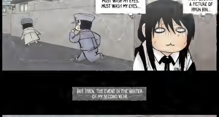


I HAD NO OTHER CHOICE THAN TO SPEAK AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE

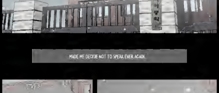

Loner~
Loner~
La la
la la ...

*also lyrics from a well-known Korean song

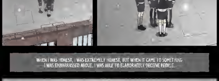
WHEN THINGS GRADUALLY GOT WORSE, I BARELY SPOKE AND LIVED MY LIFE THAT WAY.


!!
AAAH!
PP-PERVERT!

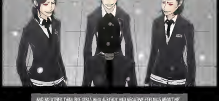
EVEN IF I BARELY SPOKE, IT WAS BETTER THAN NOT BEING ABLE TO SPEAK AT ALL.


MUST WASH MY EYES..
MUST WASH MY EYES..
MUST LOOK AT A PICTURE OF HYUN BIN..

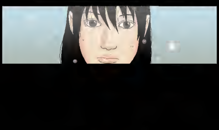
BUT THEN, THE EVENT IN THE WINTER
OF MY SECOND YEAR



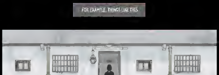
MADE ME DECIDE NOT TO SPEAK EVER AGAIN.



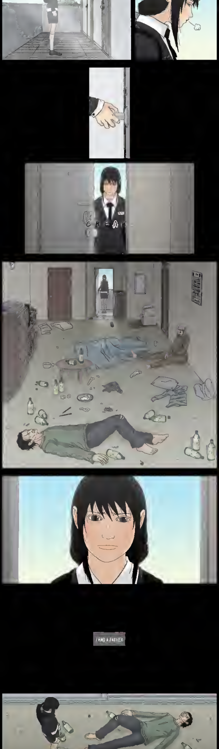
WHEN I WAS HONEST, I WAS EXTREMELY HONEST, BUT WHEN IT CAME TO SOMETHING
I WAS EMBARRASSED ABOUT, I WAS ABLE TO ELABORATELY DECEIVE PEOPLE.



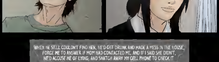
AND NO OTHER THAN THE GIRLS WHO ALREADY HAD NEGATIVE FEELINGS ABOUT ME
FOUND OUT ABOUT THOSE LIES OF MINE.



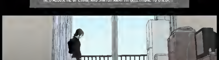
FOR EXAMPLE, THINGS LIKE THIS.



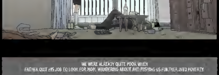
I HAD A FATHER



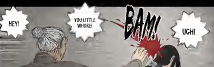
WHO SPENT HIS DAYS LOOKING FOR OUR RUNAWAY MOM, CALLING RELATIVES AND PRIVATE DETECTIVES.

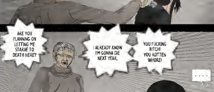


WHEN HE STILL COULDN'T FIND HER, HE'D GET DRUNK AND MADE A MESS IN THE HOUSE,
FORCE ME TO ANSWER IF MOM HAD CONTACTED ME, AND IF I SAID SHE DIDN'T,
HE'D ACCUSE ME OF LYING, AND SNATCH AWAY MY CELL PHONE TO CHECK IT

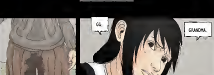


WE WERE ALREADY QUITE POOR WHEN
FATHER QUIT HIS JOB TO LOOK FOR MOM, WANDERING ABOUT AND PUSHING US FURTHER INTO POVERTY.

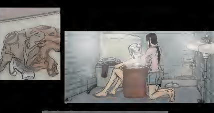

HEY!
YOU LITTLE WHORE!
BAM!
UGH!


ARE YOU PLANNING ON LETTING ME STARVE TO DEATH HERE?
I ALREADY KNOW I'M GONNA DIE NEXT YEAR,
YOU FUCKING BITCH! YOU ROTTEN WHORE!
....

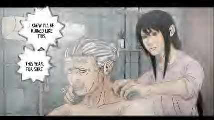
MY FATHER NEEDED MONEY.



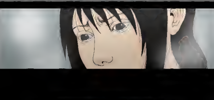
TO LOOK FOR MOTHER. SO HE GOT IT FROM THE RELATIVES
ONLY IN EXCHANGE FOR TAKING CARE OF OUR DEMENTED GRANDMOTHER.



THAT KIND OF FATHER HAD NO PLANS TO TAKE CARE OF HER.

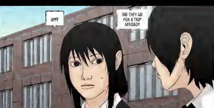

I KNEW I'LL BE RUINED LIKE THIS.
THIS YEAR, FOR SURE.

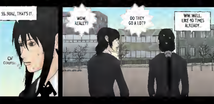
SO YOU SEE, AS SOON AS I FINISHED SCHOOL AND ARRIVED HOME,
I HAD TO WASH MY GRANDMOTHER AND CHANGE HER DIAPERS FILLED WITH URINE AND FECES.



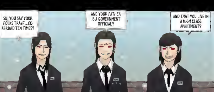
I WAS HORRIBLY EMBARRASSED OF OUR HOME AND HATED IT.

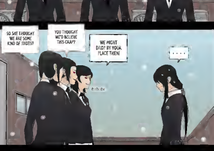
AND...


HM?
DID THEY GO FOR A TRIP ABROAD?

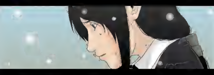

SS..SURE, THAT'S IT.
OF COURSE..
WOW REALLY?
DO THEY GO A LOT?
WW..WELL. LIKE 10 TIMES ALREADY...

AND THAT'S WHY
WHEN I WOULD TALK ABOUT OUR HOME, I'D ALWAYS SAY WE'RE A WELL-OFF, HAPPY FAMILY
AND TO COVER UP THIS LIE, I INFLATED THE STORY MORE AND MORE, BOASTING ABOUT US.

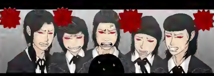

SO, YOU SAY YOUR FOLKS TRAVELLED ABROAD TEN TIMES?
AND YOUR FATHER IS A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL?
AND THAT YOU LIVE IN A HIGH CLASS APARTMENT?


SO SHE THOUGHT WE ARE SOME KIND OF IDIOTS?
YOU THOUGHT WE'D BELIEVE THIS CRAP?
WE MIGHT DROP BY YOUR PLACE THEN!
hahaha
....

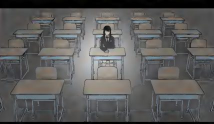
BUT I ALWAYS WORE SHABBY CLOTHES TO SCHOOL,
WAS LATE IN PAYING ALL SCHOOL EXPENSES... SO NATURALLY, THEY DID SOME CHECK-UP ON ME,
AND BY THE WINTER OF MY SECOND YEAR, MY WHOLE CLASS KNEW ABOUT MY LIES.



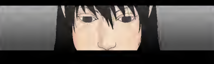
AFTER THAT...



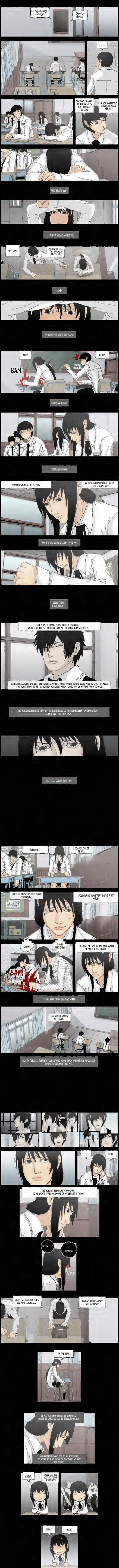
GIRLS WHO DIDN'T LIKE ME BECAUSE OF MY OVERLY DIRECT SPEECH STYLE
BULLIED ME MORE FOR MY STUTTERING, USING ABUSIVE WORDS AND HUMILIATING ME ABOUT MY FLAWS.

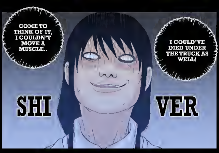


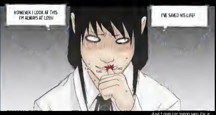
AND A LITTLE WHILE LATER, I WAS COMPLETELY EXCLUDED.



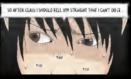
I'VE SPENT THE WHOLE YEAR BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL AS A COMPLETE SOCIAL OUTCAST.

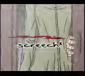

Ding-dong-dong!
Dong-dong!
. . . .
Glance
SHE WAS CRANKY AND NOW SHE'S FACE DOWN ALL THE TIME
IS SHE SLEEPING? SHOULD I WAKE HER UP?
AND THAT'S WHY
I DON'T SPEAK ANYMORE.
HEY, SAM...
YOU WERE LIKE THIS THROUGH CLASS. SO...
AND
MY FAMILY IS STILL THE SAME.
EEEK!
BAM!
OH BOY
what a surprise
THAT'S WHO I AM
THAT'S MY STORY
SO WHO SHOULD I BE PITYING...
WHO SHOULD SOMEONE LIKE ME FEEL SORRY FOR?
EVEN IF I RECEIVED SOME EMPATHY.
EVEN THEN. EVEN THEN..
ONLY UNTIL I MAKE SOME OTHER FRIENDS, WOULD YOU BE SO KIND TO TAKE ME TO AND FROM SCHOOL?
AFTER MY ACCIDENT I'VE LOST MY PARENTS, MY LEG, AND I BARELY FOUND SOME WILL TO LIVE THIS YEAR, SO I DON'T WANT TO BE IN ANOTHER ACCIDENT WHEN I DOZE OFF ON MY WAY FROM SCHOOL.
HE ACCOUNTED HIS STORY OF PAIN AND LOSS SO NONCHALANTLY, SMILING EVEN. SOMEHOW I FELT HIS PAIN.
I FELT SO SORRY FOR HIM.
EVEN SO...
REGARDLESS OF THAT...
JUST BECAUSE OF THIS PLAIN SYMPATHY...
FOLLOWING HIM EVERY DAY IS A BIT MUCH
DAMN!
BAM!
DAMN THIS GUY!
HE JUST MET ME TODAY AND ASKED ME SUCH A BIG FAVOR.
I KNEW HE WAS IN A BAD STATE...
SO I SHOULD REFUSE AFTER ALL.
BUT AFTER ALL, I HATED PEOPLE WHO MAKE SUCH IMPOSSIBLE REQUESTS SHORT AFTER MEETING ME.
. . . .
HMM..
HE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A BAD GUY, SO HE WON'T SPREAD RUMORS OF MY SECRET, I THINK.
DEFINITELY!
I'LL REFUSE!
Bling!
OKAY, I'VE DECIDED! LET'S PREPARE FOR CLASS!
I WON'T THINK ABOUT HIM ANYMORE
BY THE WAY...
NO MATTER HOW I MUST BE STARTLED, I MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO SPEAK UP AGAIN
NO MATTER HOW CLOSE TO AN ACCIDENT, TO SPEAK TO A STUDENT OF THE SAME SCHOOL WOULD BE...
PHEW...
I FEEL LIKE I'VE LOST 10 YEARS OF MY LIFE!
EEEH...
WAIT.


COME TO THINK OF IT, I COULDN'T MOVE A MUSCLE..
I COULD'VE DIED UNDER THE TRUCK AS WELL!
SHI
VER

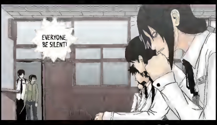

HOWEVER I LOOK AT THIS I'M ALWAYS AT LOSS!
I'VE SAVED HIS LIFE!
tap
tap
tap

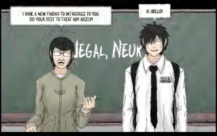
And I only got 10000 won for it (10 USD)


SO AFTER CLASS I SHOULD TELL HIM STRAIGHT THAT I CAN'T DO IT
tap
tap
tap

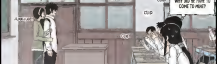


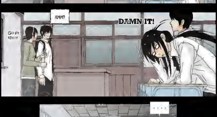
AND WHILE I WAS THINKING ALL THAT..

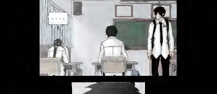

EVERYONE, BE SILENT!

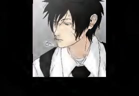

I HAVE A NEW FRIEND TO INTRODUCE TO YOU DO YOUR BEST TO TREAT HIM NICELY!
H..HELLO!
JEGAL, NEUK

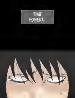
IT SEEMED THAT I WAS ABLE TO MEET HIM AGAIN BEFORE THE CLASS ENDED



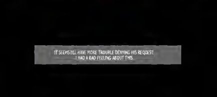

MY NAME IS NEUK JEGAL. NICE TO MEET YOU
I HOPE WE'LL GET ALONG!
Applause!
clap
clap
clap
clap
WHAT, WHA~
OF ALL THE CLASSES, WHY DID HE HAVE TO COME TO MINE?


Go sit there.
HMM?
DAMN IT!





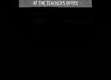
THAT MOMENT


OH, SHIT!
SHIT, SHIT!

IT SEEMS I'LL HAVE MORE TROUBLE DENYING HIS REQUEST
..I HAD A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

– To be continued –

AT THAT TIME, HYUNG JUN SANG WAS..



RECEIVING HIS PUNISHMENT AT THE TEACHER'S OFFICE

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